

Publication Date: August 4, 2026

Reflection Date: August 9, 2026 - [Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time](#)

The Tiny, Whispering Voice

The reading from the First Book of Kings on the [Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time](#) offers a profound contrast to what occurred on this date in 1945, when human beings killed up to 40,000 of their fellow human beings in seconds with the use of one nuclear weapon. This followed the bombing of Hiroshima, three days prior, when 70,000–80,000 men, women and children were murdered in a flash.

And where was God?

Not in the violent wind or fire, but rather in the “tiny whispering voice” (1 Kings 19:12) of the survivors and in the voices of those who, until this day, faithfully speak out against the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons and strive to bring peace for all God’s creation.



Sourced from Unsplash

Why does our nation possess [an estimated 5,100 nuclear warheads](#) for defense purposes, allegedly to protect our citizens, while at the same time we allow thousands of our citizens to be killed and maimed each year by guns?

In the reading from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul expresses “anguish” and empathy for his own people (Romans 9:2) who do not accept Jesus, a sentiment echoed by today’s followers of the nonviolent Jesus and St. Francis, as they attempt to call attention to the violence and evils of nuclear weapons.

This week’s Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew (Matthew 14:22-33) challenges us to move out of our comfort zones, speak with trust in our God, and act with courage in the face of the storms of this uncertain time. Just as St. Peter was able to walk on water when he focused on Jesus, the gospel calls us to step into the waters of the isms, or storms, of our day. We are called to use our Franciscan voice with and for all those lacking basic needs such as

adequate food and healthcare at a time when our nation spent \$69.2 billion (or \$3,768 per second) in 2025 to upgrade nuclear weapons

Sr. Maryann Mueller, CSSF

Justice and Peace Coordinator, Felician Sisters of North America

Suggested Action: Franciscans are called to be heralds of peace and reconciliation. We invite you to [contact your Senators](#) asking them to vote no on the National Defense Authorization Act, a bill that would increase Pentagon spending to \$1.5 trillion. Consider viewing faith leaders including FAN's Executive Director Michele Dunne in a ***Virtual Summit Dialogue on Global Abolition of Nuclear Weapons***, which may be accessed [here](#).

Suggested Petitions: For those working in the nuclear weapons industry, that they can transition to other well-paying jobs that protect the environment and support human life, we pray to the Lord.

That each of us stay focused on Jesus and use our Franciscan voice to speak out for all those lacking basic needs in our country and throughout the world, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

O God, tender and just,
the names of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
cut through our denial
that we are capable of destroying the earth
and all that dwell therein.
Forgive us - and help us to always remember.

We must remember because this must never happen again.
We must remember because you would have us live
in harmony with each other,
seeing the joy of your creation in our
sisters and brothers.

Amen.

From [Pax Christi Prayer for Hiroshima Day](#)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Prayer Service, August 6

This August 6 marks 81 years since the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of people and leaving a legacy of suffering that endures to this day. Yet the threat of nuclear weapons has not diminished: more than 12,000 nuclear warheads remain in the world's arsenals.

In response, the Franciscan Peace Center and the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite you to join their annual Hiroshima Nagasaki Prayer Service, a free, virtual gathering open to all. This year's theme, *"From Remembrance to Abolition,"* calls us to honor the lives lost while renewing our commitment to a nuclear-free world. 39 congregations of women religious and peace organizations, including FAN are co-sponsoring this growing witness of faith and peace.

FAN's director of advocacy, Sister Maria Orlandini, will be giving a reflection during the event. It is not to be missed!

Thursday, August 6 | 7:00 PM EDT | Via Zoom

Register [here](#)



Upcoming Webinar on the Arctic



The Arctic: "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins"

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
7:00 PM EDT - 8:00 PM EDT

An unexpected trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is soul changing. **Franciscan Sister Joan Brown** will share her experience of this sacred place that the Gwich'in people call "the sacred place where life begins." Join us for FAN's next webinar to learn how we can protect the Arctic from oil and gas development. Register [here](#)

FAN Staff Transitions



Robert Christian, the current Director of Communications, is transitioning to a new role at FAN: Director of Strategy! Robert will help to shape FAN's advocacy and communications strategy—with a particular focus on the issues of immigration and democracy. He is excited for this new opportunity, as FAN continues to grow and deepen its work.



After completing her year of service with Franciscan Mission Service and role as a FAN advocacy associate, Claire Fisher will now be working as FAN's Communications Coordinator! She is thrilled to continue working with FAN, and is excited to work closely on outreach and media projects, including this newsletter.

Please pray for Robert and Claire as they transition into these new positions! We invite you to send your well wishes to rchristian@franciscanaction.org and cfisher@franciscanaction.org.

FAN Shows Up



FAN participated in a multi-faith witness this week on the occasion of the meeting of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with President Trump Tuesday, July 28. Executive Director Michele Dunne and Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy both spoke about the continued attack on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Join Us for FAN's 2026 Conference

FAN's annual leadership conference brings Franciscan-hearted people from different locations, generations, vocations, and backgrounds together to learn, grow, connect, and build a movement for justice. Registration open for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Ours to do** on **November 7-9, 2026** in the



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Washington DC area with early bird registration prices available through **August 15**. Through Franciscan formation, inspiring speakers, hands-on training, and civic engagement on Capitol Hill, we'll explore how to live out our Franciscan values and advocate for a more just and peaceful world. Learn more, hear from people who attended last year's conference and register [here](#). Sponsorship information is available [here](#).

Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Arizona FJC** members are active in areas of environmental, poverty and immigration concerns. Actions include: efforts to mitigate extreme heat and impact on people, especially the risk to workers; closely watching lawsuits and progress of copper mining deal at Oak Flat; signing on to faith letter to Congress re: violence & killings by ICE agents; writing letters of support to detainees and praying at vigils and outside ICE detention centers in solidarity with all sisters and brothers negatively impacted by immigration enforcement and detention.

Upcoming [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) (FJC) gatherings:

Ohio FJC: Wed. Aug. 5 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. Aug. 6 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

Metro DC-Area FJC: Sat. Aug. 8 at 10:00 am ET In Person

Virtual NY-state St. Kateri FJC: Mon. Aug. 10 at 3:00 pm ET via Zoom

Richmond,VA-Area FJC: Mon. Aug. 10 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Connecticut - Rhode Island FJC: Tue. Aug. 11 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

DE Valley FJC: Tue. Aug. 11 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

New Mexico FJC: Tue. Aug. 11 at 6:30 pm MT via Zoom

Monthly National FJC call: Wed. Aug. 12 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET via Zoom

Bay Area & Northern CA FJC: Wed. Aug. 12 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom

Rochester, NY-area FJC: Thur. Aug. 13 at 3:30 pm ET via Zoom

Central Indiana FJC: Fri. Aug. 14 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom

Four Lakes FJC (WI): Sat. Aug. 15 at 12:00 pm ET In Person

To find out more about any of the [FJC](#) gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please sign up [HERE](#).